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Claims

1. A system for analyzing data comprising healthcare orders initiating treatment or services used in patient healthcare, comprising:

a data processor for identifying a potential change in use of a particular treatment by,

5   examining data representing a plurality of orders generated over a particular time period and used in treating a plurality of patients, to identify a number of orders initiating application of a particular treatment to individual patients of said plurality of patients to address a particular medical condition and

determining at least one of, (a) whether said number of orders exceeds a

10 predetermined threshold and (b) whether a rate of change in said number of orders relative to a previously determined number of orders is significant; and

a message processor for initiating generation of a message to alert a message recipient of an identified potential change in use of said particular treatment.

15   2. The system of claim 1, including

an acquisition processor for acquiring data representing said plurality of orders used in treating said plurality of patients and for associating an individual order with at least one of, (a) said particular medical condition and (b) a set of medical conditions including said particular medical condition.

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3. The system of claim 1, including

an acquisition processor for acquiring data identifying a plurality of medical conditions exhibited by an individual patient and for applying said data identifying said plurality of medical conditions exhibited by said individual patient in associating said

25 individual order with said at least one of, (a) said particular medical condition and (b) a set of medical conditions including said particular medical condition.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein

said acquisition processor derives data identifying said plurality of medical conditions and potentially associated sub-conditions, wherein a potentially associated sub-condition of a medical condition is identified using a clinical knowledge model that associates medical conditions based upon one of potential etiology, potential complication, clinical associations, and a combination thereof.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein

said data identifying said plurality of medical conditions exhibited by said individual patient is acquired from a stored patient record.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein

said potential change in use of said particular treatment comprises at least one of, (a) a change in frequency of use of said particular treatment by physicians to treat said particular medical condition and (b) a change in type of medical condition treated with said particular treatment.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein

said data processor correlates data representing a particular order of said plurality of orders with at least one of, (a) said particular medical condition, (b) another order of said plurality of orders and (c) a documentation template used for initiating an order.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein

said data processor performs said correlation using at least one of, (i) cluster analysis, (ii) best fit analysis and (iii) a statistical correlation technique.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein

said message processor initiates generation of a message prompting a user with a suggestion of at least one of, (a) an additional order item to be added to an existing order set documentation template and (b) a deletion of an order item from an existing order set documentation template.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein

a second message is received in response to said message alert and

said second message initiates at least one of, (a) an addition of an order item to an existing order set documentation template and (b) a deletion of an order item from an existing

5   order set documentation template.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein

an acquisition processor for acquiring data identifying a plurality of medical conditions exhibited by an individual patient and

10   applying said data identifying said plurality of medical conditions exhibited by said individual patient in associating said individual order with said at least one of, (a) said particular medical condition and (b) a set of medical conditions including said particular medical condition.

15   12. The system of claim 1, wherein

said data processor monitors data representing orders to identify said data representing said plurality of orders for examining based on at least one of, (i) a predetermined particular order item in an order set, (ii) a predetermined particular order documentation template, (iii) a source of a predetermined particular order and (iv) a predetermined particular medical

20   condition likely to be associated with an order.

13. A system for suggesting to a user an alteration to an existing documentation order template used for initiating treatment or services used in patient healthcare, comprising:

a data processor for identifying a potential change in use of a particular treatment by,

25   examining data representing a plurality of orders generated over a particular time period and used in treating a plurality of patients, to identify a number of orders initiating application of a particular treatment to individual patients of said plurality of patients to address a particular medical condition and

determining whether a change in said number of orders relative to a previously

30   determined number of orders is significant, and

prompting a user with a suggestion of at least one of, (a) an additional order item to be added to an existing order set documentation template and (b) a deletion of an order item from an existing order set documentation template.

5   14. A system for analyzing data comprising healthcare orders initiating treatment or services used in patient healthcare, comprising:

an acquisition processor for acquiring data representing said plurality of orders used in treating said plurality of patients and for associating an individual order with at least one of, (a) said particular medical condition and (b) a set of medical conditions including said

10   particular medical condition;

a data processor for identifying a potential change in use of a particular treatment by,

examining data representing a plurality of orders associated with a particular medical condition and generated over a particular time period and used in treating a plurality of patients, to identify a number of orders initiating application of a particular treatment to

15   individual patients of said plurality of patients and

determining whether a change in said number of orders relative to a previously determined number of orders is significant; and

a message processor for initiating generation of a message to alert a message recipient of an identified potential change in use of said particular treatment.

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15. A method for analyzing data comprising healthcare orders initiating treatment or services used in patient healthcare to identify a potential change in use of a particular treatment, comprising the steps of:

examining data representing a plurality of orders generated over a particular time

25   period and used in treating a plurality of patients, to identify a number of orders initiating application of a particular treatment to individual patients of said plurality of patients to address a particular medical condition and

determining at least one of, (a) whether said number of orders exceeds a predetermined threshold and (b) whether a rate of change in said number of orders relative to

30   a previously determined number of orders is statistically significant; and

initiating generation of a message to alert a message recipient of an identified potential change in use of said particular treatment.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein

said determining step determines at least one of, (a) whether said number of orders exceeds a predetermined threshold and (b) whether a rate of change in said number of orders relative to a previously determined number of orders is statistically significant.